

Documents for Slow Food Annual Meeting

February 21, 2010

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Agenda

Slow Food Minnesota Annual Meeting, 2009 Year End
McNally Smith College of Music
19 Exchange St. E, St. Paul
2–5 p.m., February 21, 2010

1. Bread, Soup and dessert (throughout)
2. 2:45 p.m. Comments by Ron Huff, founder and outgoing chair
3. 3 p.m. Business meeting call to order
4. Election of officers
5. Approval of Annual meeting minutes of 2008 year end by Secretary, Derek Hook
6. Treasurers report, 2008 year end, by treasurer, Barbara Horter
7. Proposed correction of Standards Committee Statutes, Colleen Foster
8. The year ahead, Jane Rosemarin
9. New business
10. 3:30 More food and socializing. Don't forget to sign Ron's guestbook!

Food shelf donations will be accepted throughout the meeting. Our focus is on dried beans, canned tomatoes, rice (Kokuho, jasmine or other), flour and cooking oil, but other food and personal care items are needed. Checks may be written to Keystone Community Services.

Slate of Nominees for the Slow Food MN Board

The following nominees have indicated their desire and ability to serve, if elected, as board officers from today's election until the annual meeting in February 2011. Any chapter member may propose additional nominations.

Jane Rosemarin, chair
Colleen Foster, vice chair and membership
Ken Schacher, secretary
Barbara L. Horter, treasurer
Dina Berray, events
Ken Meter, at large
Laura Frerichs, at large

Minutes 2009

Slow Food Minnesota Annual Meeting February 22nd 2009
Neighborhood House, Wellstone Center, St Paul MN

Meeting Convened at 1:50pm

Ron Huff chaired the meeting (see attached Agenda).

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Ron Huff opened the meeting welcoming everyone. He went through a history of the convivium which was founded in 1999 and one of the first in the US, and was recognized by Slow Food USA in February of 2000. We are now in our 10th anniversary season. In 2009 the chapter is again approaching 300 members, slightly less than last year and is the 8th largest chapter in the USA out of 218 chapters. We continue to maintain strength even though Slow Food in 2009 has 7 fewer chapters than a year ago and there are 4 states without chapters.

We have had over 50 events over the last 9 seasons, with nearly 4,000 individuals, (60% members and 40% guests), participating.

The chapter has had great membership support and has contributed over \$16,000 to support the last three Terra Madre events.

Our chapter is very efficient and has less than 3% administrative costs. We would like to thank and acknowledge our Web designer, Peter Landwehr, and Web master, Jane Rosemarin, for their excellent work for one of Slow Food's best and most informative web sites.

2. Comments on Slow Food MN by some representative participating members.

The meeting next continued by comments from existing members on why they are involved with Slow Food.

Audrey Arner briefly commented on how attendance at Terra Madre has influenced her range of projects; Cathy Schacher discussed how she is working with young people to educate them and get their ideas as "voices of difference" about food; Ken Schacher discussed how important it is to know your own food and where it originates; Lori and Alan Callister discussed how exposure to Terra Madre expanded their food horizons and influence their future farming directions; Ralph Lentz mentioned how Dave Minar persuaded him to join Slow Food and suggested he hold the first "Wild Things" event. He agreed only expecting about 45 people and was astounded when 145 people showed up. He thought the food was excellent; Ron Huff was head chef and helped cook the food (pasta, morels, wild boar and wine and beer from local sources). Ralph Lentz was very glad he joined the organization.

3. Agenda Item: Verification of member attendance by the Secretary, Derek Hook, and approval of Minutes of the February 10th Meeting 2008

25 current members signed attendance roster. Quorum Present.

Discussion: none

Motion to approve: Proposed by Fred Stenborg, seconded by Colleen Foster. No discussion.

Approved: Aye by voice vote

Opposed: None

3. Treasurer's Report

Barbara Horter presented the Treasurer's report (see attached).

Opening balance of \$3,769.72 as of 12/31/2006. Ending Balance 12/31/2007 \$ 11,996.39
Of the latter total \$8,600.00 is earmarked for Terra Madre.

There were very successful events to raise contributions to Shepherd's way and the Southeastern Minnesota Flood relief. \$2,130 was contributed to Shepherd's Way and \$11,100.00 to Sow the Seeds and American Red Cross. The main fund raiser for the chapter was the 7 Slow Chefs event.

Accepted without voice vote.

4. Agenda Item: Approval of Treasurer's report. (see attached documents)

Motion to approve: Proposed by Ralph Lentz, seconded by Lori Callister

Approved: Aye by voice vote

Opposed: None

5. Agenda Item: Proposed changes to Slow Food Minnesota by-laws

Ron Huff discussed the proposed changes to the bylaws to make them compliant with recent changes in National bylaws (which in turn have filtered down from Slow food International). Most are cosmetic and relate to replace "chapter" for "convivium" and to define the responsibilities, number and titles of officers.

On the floor amendment to call the last paragraph of the attached changes "item 7" agreed by acclamation.

Motion to accept changes to bylaws as amended on the floor : Proposed Naomi Karstad, seconded Cathy Schacher

Approved: Aye by voice vote

Opposed: None

6. Proposed changes/additions to Standards Committee Statutes

These were proposed by the Standards Committee and were in the meeting package.

Motion to approve: Audrey Arner, seconded Colleen Foster
Discussion: none
Approved: Aye by voice vote
Opposed: None

Comment from Ken Meter – any plans for persons with other qualifications, e.g. educators for consideration for sponsoring at Terra Madre? Issue is that chapter can only propose candidates to Slow Food International; they make the final selection. Educators are not commonly selected by local chapters as there are a very small number of worldwide slots.

Also informational item that other food related not-for-profits can be considered for addition to MN website.

7. Agenda Item: Election of Officers

Slate proposed from list in agenda

Nominee Position

Ronald L. Huff Chairperson/Leader
Jane Rosemarin Vice Chairperson/Asst. Leader
Derek J. Hook Secretary
Barbara L. Horter Treasurer
Joshua Dix Member at Large*
Naomi Karstad Member at Large*
Colleen Foster Member at Large*

*Members at Large would possibly assume some duties of the Events Facilitator, and Communication Coordinator.

Open to nominations from the floor ; None obtained

Move to accept slate : Lori Callister

Seconded: Fred Stenborg

Approved: Aye by voice vote

Opposed: None

8. Agenda Item: Comments by Chairperson.

This is a somewhat abbreviated version of Ron Huff's comments.

Ron indicated that in 2010 there will be an opportunity to elect new leaders for the chapter. He indicated that he will step down as leader after this year to pursue his other interests in culinary world, among other interests and requested support from the Board of 2009 as we prepare for the 2010 elections. He feels strongly that we need to reach out to the younger members of Slow Food, as members, and as future farmers and food producers. We need to ensure that our youth realize that small family farms/farming is a valuable calling.

Slow Food International is emphasizing this concept and will likely use this as a major criterion for selection of candidates to Terra Madre and the young farmer exchange program from overseas to the USA in the future.

He felt that some of the objectives that Slow Food Minnesota should consider include:

Continued aid to and focus on Minnesota's small family farmers

Establish a Slow Food Monthly e-newsletter

Develop a standing membership committee

The latter two will need people to come forward and volunteer.

9. Motion to Adjourn

Proposed: Audrey Arner Seconded Derek Hook

Approved: Aye by voice vote

Opposed: None

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30pm

10. Pot luck and socializing until 4:30pm

Enjoyed by all !!

11. Cleanup – Leave room by 5pm

Prepared and Respectfully submitted

Derek J. Hook

Secretary

22th February 2008



SLOW FOOD MINNESOTA
P.O. BOX 14059
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

Financial Report for 2009

Income

Event Ticket Sales

Kaspar, Wild About You, Snail In The Park, Peace Coffee,
Fowl Affair \$15,388.00

Other Event Revenue

Donations \$1,497.20

Total Income **\$16,835.20**

Expenses

Event Expenses

Kaspar, Wild About You, Snail In The Park, Peace Coffee,
Fowl Affair \$8,104.70

Administrative expenses

PO Box, bank fees, postage, web fee \$407.17

Total Expenses **\$8,511.87**

Net Income 2009 \$8,321.53

Checking Account Balance 12-31-2008 \$3,876.40

Total \$12,197.93

\$47.18 uncashed check

Balance in Checking Account as of December 31, 2009 **\$12,246.91**

Funds earmarked for Terra Madre in 2010 \$5,756.81

Funds earmarked for youth programs \$944.00

Prepared by:
Barbara Horter
Treasurer
Slow Food Minnesota
January 11, 2010

Proposed Clarification of Standards Committee Statutes

A copy of the complete statutes appears on page 9. Red text marks significant differences between the two versions.

CURRENT VERSION. Dated January 24, 2009, Second and third paragraphs:

The Standards Committee is also responsible for interviewing Minnesota farmers/food producers and chefs and deciding which shall be selected as possible delegates to Terra Madre. The selection process and board authorization for funding is to be completed in the year preceding each Terra Madre. (For example, in 2009 select the candidates and seek authorization for funding those Minnesota candidates that will have been chosen as delegates for Terra Madre 2010). Terra Madre is a project of Slow Food International. All candidates must be able to attend the full five days of this international forum, which is held in Turin, Italy every other year. Slow Food Minnesota will provide a grant to be used for purchasing round trip airfare between Minneapolis and Turin. The amount of this grant will be decided by the officers of Slow Food Minnesota. Once delegates are in Italy their expenses (lodging, meals and travel within Italy related to the Terra Madre forum) are completely taken care of by Slow Food International.*

For the year 2010 the Standards Committee proposes that Slow Food Minnesota fund four different farmers/food producers and one professional “slow” chef. The Standards Committee is asking the officers of Slow Food Minnesota to consider grants of \$1,500 to each of the five possible delegates (total of \$7,500). Delegates will be given their grant prior to departure. They must provide copies of their itinerary and proof of ticket purchase to the Treasurer of Slow Food Minnesota prior to receipt of funds. The dates for Terra Madre 2010 are October (days TBD). Selected delegates must be prepared to depart the United States at least one day prior to the opening session of Terra Madre and plan to depart Turin no earlier than the final date of the event. It is recommended that delegates consider staying one or two additional days in Italy after the forum has been completed.

PROPOSED CORRECTION AND CHANGE:

The Standards Committee is also responsible for interviewing potential candidates for Terra Madre (the world meeting of food communities in Turin, Italy) and recommending to the Board candidates (individuals or pairs) to receive the Chapter’s support. The number of candidates will depend upon chapter finances and Terra Madre guidelines. Support consists of 1) an endorsement of candidacy and 2) a travel subsidy if the candidate is accepted by Slow Food International and attends Terra Madre as a delegate. In addition to applying for chapter endorsement, candidates must apply to Slow Food International in the spring of the conference year. Slow Food International decides who will attend Terra Madre and covers delegates’ basic expenses during the conference.

The Standards Committee solicits applications from professionals in the categories specified by Slow Food USA and Slow Food International. Currently, the categories are food producers,

farmers and chefs. Candidates must operate within the state of Minnesota. Slow Food members receive extra consideration, but members of the Board and members of the Standards Committee and their immediate families are not eligible for endorsement or funding.

Successful delegates will be given a grant (the amount to be determined by the Board) prior to their departure. The grant is to be used toward round trip airfare between Minneapolis and Turin. Delegates must furnish copies of their itineraries and proof of ticket purchase to the Treasurer of Slow Food Minnesota.

Slow Food International determines the dates of Terra Madre; typically, the event is held during the third week of October. Delegates must be able to attend the full five days of the forum; they must be prepared to depart from the United States at least one day prior to the opening session of Terra Madre and must remain in Turin through the conference's final day. Delegates should consider staying in Italy one or two days after the forum is completed.



Full Text of Previous Slow Food Minnesota Standards Committee Statutes Dated January 24, 2009

The Standards Committee is a “standing” committee of Slow Food Minnesota and is charged with the responsibility of vetting food producers, farmers, restaurants, grocery stores, and other food and beverage producers within the state of Minnesota and deciding which are listed on Slow Food Minnesota’s Web site. Members of the Standards Committee shall actively solicit food producers/farmers, restaurateurs/chefs, specialty grocers and others who qualify according to the criteria set forth in these statutes to make application for listing on Slow Food Minnesota’s Web site. Members of the Standards Committee are also charged with conducting on-site visits and interviews with those who have completed written applications. They may also do follow up visits from time to time of those who have been listed on the Web site.

The Standards Committee is also responsible for interviewing Minnesota farmers/food producers and chefs and deciding which shall be selected as possible delegates to Terra Madre.* The selection process and board authorization for funding is to be completed in the year preceding each Terra Madre. (For example, in 2009 select the candidates and seek authorization for funding those Minnesota candidates that will have been chosen as delegates for Terra Madre 2010). Terra Madre is a project of Slow Food International. All candidates must be able to attend the full five days of this international forum, which is held in Turin, Italy every other year. Slow Food Minnesota will provide a grant to be used for purchasing round trip airfare between Minneapolis and Turin. The amount of this grant will be decided by the officers of Slow Food Minnesota. Once delegates are in Italy their expenses (lodging, meals and travel within Italy related to the Terra Madre forum) are completely taken care of by Slow Food International.

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Committee is asking the officers of Slow Food Minnesota to consider grants of \$1,500 to each of the five possible delegates (total of \$7,500). Delegates will be given their grant prior to departure. They must provide copies of their itinerary and proof of ticket purchase to the Treasurer of Slow Food Minnesota prior to receipt of funds. The dates for Terra Madre 2010 are October (days TBD). Selected delegates must be prepared to depart the United States at least one day prior to the opening session of Terra Madre and plan to depart Turin no earlier than the final date of the event. It is recommended that delegates consider staying one or two additional days in Italy after the forum has been completed.

Selected delegates must be willing to share their experiences with members of Slow Food Minnesota as well as the public at large. They may be asked to be on panels or to speak at various events. Delegates are expected to be good “ambassadors” of Terra Madre, and Slow Food Minnesota. Delegates who have been funded by Slow Food Minnesota should agree to acknowledge Slow Food Minnesota’s support in all appropriate public and private forums.

The geographical boundary, for purposes of the Web site and Terra Madre candidates, is the State of Minnesota. Only those food producers that plant, grow or produce within the State of Minnesota are eligible for listing on Slow Food Minnesota’s Web site. The same applies to all restaurants, grocery/specialty stores, purveyors, and other slow entities. Listings on the Web site are not necessarily permanent. Membership in Slow Food is not required for listing but is encouraged by the Committee. Therefore, each Web site application shall be accompanied by a Slow Food USA membership brochure. A business approved for listing, whose owner, president, CEO, farmer-owner, executive chef or other significant executive is a duly qualified member of Slow Food, shall be recognized by the placement of the Slow Food snail logo alongside the listing, although the logo and/or the words, “Slow Food,” may not be used by these individuals or businesses in their marketing, promotions or advertising. The Committee, from to time, will reassess listings to make certain that they continue to meet the protocols, philosophy, and other criteria established by Slow Food USA, Slow Food International and the Slow Food Minnesota Standards Committee.

All applicants need to meet a minimum of 80 percent of the standards. Food producers need to be from small to midsize family farms that produce enough products for retail/wholesale to the general public, and all products must be grown, produced and processed within the State of Minnesota. Organic or other certification alone does not guarantee listing. All producers should be encouraged to be members of Slow Food.

Restaurants, restaurateurs and chefs must consistently source from local, high-quality producers. Among other considerations, chefs should be encouraged to identify their sources on their printed menus; they should plan their menus and cook on a seasonal basis; they should have business relationships with local producers; and they should purchase direct as frequently as possible. Chefs, owners, and staff should be encouraged to be members of Slow Food.

Retailers/Wholesalers (e.g. supermarkets, specialty food shops, food importers/distributors, must do all they can to feature locally produced foods. Owners of these businesses should be encouraged to be members. They should seek out the highest quality foods locally/internationally, should establish ongoing relationships with local producers and purchase direct at every opportunity.

***Considerations for selection of Candidates for Terra Madre:**

1. Must be producers, farmers, or chefs who are growing, raising, processing, cooking, and conducting business within the State of Minnesota.
Must be representative of their “food community.”
2. Must be able to attend the full conference. Currently 5 days of forums in Turin, Italy.
3. Must be willing to share their experiences with other members and the public at large and be good ambassadors of the Slow Food philosophy and for Slow Food Minnesota.
4. Young farmers shall be given extra consideration by the Committee.
5. Should be encouraged, if not current members, to join the movement. Those who are members of Slow Food shall be given extra consideration by the Committee.

The attached pages consist of questions and considerations that members of the Standards Committee shall ask in their evaluation of possible candidates for the Web site. (Not included here.)



Tentative Events 2010

Where the Wild Things Are:

A foraging dinner at Ralph Lentz Farm

May 16, 2010

Learn more about how a sustainable farm respects the environment. Forage, hike and enjoy a delicious dinner based on foraged foods and beef from the farm.

Other events in the planning stage:

- A hands-on baking event for members
- A Snail in Winter potluck at Local D'Lish with a speaker
- Snail in the Park potlucks will be back this summer
- A Hmong food and farming event
- A chocolate tasting with River Chocolate. In addition Alan Whitney and Deirdre Davis will discuss their explorations of South American chocolate plantations
- An event built around a film showing

Tentative Projects 2010

- Community Design Center
- Newsletter
- Child Nutrition Act